Mis-Appropriation of Funds in Nagaland University

*273. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH :

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Asian Age dated 18th September, 2001 captioned, "Nagaland teachers accuse HRD of fraud" to the effect that Nagaland teachers have accused of neglect of the Central University of Nagaland in the allocation of funds;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken to enquire into the allegations of mis-appropriation of funds and set right the working and bring about reforms in the working of the University ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT : (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The UGC provides maintenance and development grants to Central Universities, including Nagaland University. Funds are also allocated to the Universities in the North East, including Nagaland University, from out of Non-Lapsable Pool of Central Resources. Development grants are given by UGC on plan to plan basis taking into account the requirements of the University and the recommendations made by an expert committee constituted by UGC for assessment of the requirements. The salary component of maintenance grants is funded by UGC on 100% basis. For non-salary items, allocation is made by UGC after a realistic assessment which is increased by about 10% every year. UGC also considers specific requirements from the Universities, as and when necessary. During the last three years *viz.*, 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, the funds received by the University have been Rs. 1154.72 lakhs, Rs. 2353.92 lakhs and Rs. 2582.00 lakhs respectively, which are significantly greater than the amounts received by the University in earlier years.

(c) Universities are autonomous bodies who take administrative decision on their own. According to the information furnished by the Nagaland University, some irregularities with regard to purchase of stores have been detected by the Enquiry Committee set up by the University. The University has initiated disciplinary action against the delinquent officer who has since reverted to his parent department on expiry of his period of deputation.